

II. Remarks

Claim Status

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-13 are pending.

Claims 4, 8 and 14 are canceled.

Claims 1, 9, and 10 are independent.

Claims 1, 9, and 10 were amended in this response. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly requested.

Claims 15 – 23 are new. Support for new claims 15-23 can be found in at least paragraphs [0003], [0111] – [0114] and Figures 13-14.

All claim amendments made herein are made for the purpose of clarity with respect to the specification and drawings, and not for any reason related to any statutory requirement for patentability. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have added new dependent Claims 15 - 23 to afford themselves a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new claims are fully supported in the specification and are believed to be allowable for the reasons to be developed below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hoshino et al. (US 6,761,635), hereinafter referred to as Hoshino in view of common knowledge in the art as set forth on pages 2 through 9 of the Office Action. Specifically, with respect to claims 1, 9 and 10, the Examiner argued that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Hoshino so that the relay unit is becomes separated and located outside the entertainment apparatus and includes: a main body connector for detachably connecting the relay unit to the entertainment apparatus; at least one or a plurality of connectors for detachably connecting the one or more plurality of manipulation terminals, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements and

make it separate to locate it outside involves only routine skill in the art. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

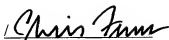
Applicants further maintain that Hoshino does not, in fact, teach such a relay unit, at least not as presently claimed. In fact, Hoshino makes no reference to the existence of any "relay unit" associated with the device, neither in the specification, nor in the claims. Hoshino simply discloses a game console capable of being coupled with multiple controllers. The present application, on the other hand, discloses and claims a relay unit that allows multiple controllers and/or storage devices to connect to, and interact with, the entertainment apparatus via a single port.

Nevertheless, solely to advance this application to issue, independent claims 1, 9 and 10 have been amended to clarify that the relay unit receives the selection signal from the entertainment apparatus via the main body connector; the control signal generator operates the first relay unit to carry out the relay processing for the first mode when the relay unit receives the selection signal in accordance with the first mode; and the control signal generator operates the second relay unit to carry out the relay processing for the second mode when the relay unit receives the selection signal in accordance with the second mode. It is respectfully submitted that Hoshino fails to teach or suggest at least these elements.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action. Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290. Entry of this Amendment and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3647. All correspondence should be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ferenc", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Christopher B. Ferenc
Reg. No. 59,365

PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN, L.L.P.
575 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022-2585
Customer No. 26304